



Preventing Wintertime Auto Thefts

ALERT!!!

During the colder months, the City of St. Paul experiences a greater number of car thefts than at other times of the year. Car thieves take advantage of residents who leave their cars running to keep them warm.

There is a temptation to start the car in the morning and let it warm up – usually while you are out of sight in your home or apartment. This is a costly mistake! Many unattended cars are stolen while being warmed up. Many more cars are stolen when cars are left running, unattended, while their owners run in to pick up a quick item at a business or merchant. Even if you lock the car, it takes a thief only seconds to jimmy a door lock or break a window.

Prosecution is difficult in these circumstances even if the suspect is apprehended in the car with the car keys.

Saint Paul City Ordinance 157.10 (Locking Required) makes it a violation for any person to leave a motor vehicle unattended on any street, alley, or unattended parking lot, without first stopping the engine, locking the ignition, removing the key and taking it with him or her. St. Paul police officers are directed to enforce this ordinance, and if your car is stolen under these circumstances it is likely you will receive a costly citation for violating the ordinance.

Please save yourself some money and aggravation AND help us to prevent and reduce this winter-time crime. Don't leave you car running unattended!